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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, KEITH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2683

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/865,657

Applicant(s)

SKINNER ET AL.

Examiner

Keith T. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Claim 1 recites no charge is being provided to the battery. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 14 recites no charge is being provided to the battery. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 20 recites no charge is being provided to the battery. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1,3 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Soini et al. and Buhrmann, newly recited reference.

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Miller discloses a handheld computer system (portable data phone which provides internet and organizer functions) (fig. 1 number 22 and col. 3 lines 65 through col. 4 line 23), comprising a housing (col. 3 lines 19-24), a display (screen) (fig. 1 number 26), a processor (controller) coupled to the display (screen) (fig. 1 numbers 24 and 26), a rechargeable battery (fig. 1 number 40) configured to power the processor (controller) and the display (screen) (col. 4 lines 24-30), a recharging connector (inherent, as the rechargeable battery is connected to an external power source 52, as taught in col. 4 lines 26-50) in coupled to the rechargeable battery (col. 4 lines 23-50), a recharger (DC power supply, switch, filter, feedback control circuit and feedback sensor) coupled to the recharging connector (col. 4 lines 27-50), and a radio frequency transceiver (fig. 1 number 34) coupled to the processor (fig. 1 numbers 35 and 24 and col. 4

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lines 11-14) and powerable by the battery (col. 4 lines 12-30), when the battery has a charge above a predetermined low level (inherent, as the normal operating mode before needing to be charged by charger or need of a replacement of batteries, as taught in col. 4 lines 23-27), and the charger provides charge to the rechargeable battery (col. 4 lines 26-50) and to the transceiver (i.e. the transceiver 34 is connected to the rechargeable battery 40 when connected to the DC supply 52 while the rechargeable battery is being charged) (fig. 1 numbers 34, 40 and 52 and col. 6 lines 6-50) and the rechargeable battery can be charged while simultaneously operating the data phone (col. 4 lines 6-30). Miller differs from claim 1 of the present invention in that it does not explicitly disclose the transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery. Soini et al. teaches a multi-service mobile station used for data, notebook, PDA, mobile, and calendar services (paragraph 0001 lines 1-11 and paragraph 0014 lines 1-3) which a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level (inherent, since a warning is given to the user through the display when the battery drops below a pre-limit value

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1warning 32), if the voltage over the battery drops further below preset limit value 2warning 33, the multi-service mobile station cuts off power supply to the telephone module which are connected with the transmission and reception of messages by radio, as taught in paragraph 0040 lines 1-9 and since the data traffic is not cut off until the battery level drops below the preset limit value, power off 35, taught in paragraph 0042 lines 1-5), the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level (paragraph 0040 lines 7-10).

Buhrmann teaches a wireless transceiver powered by a landline connected to local exchange (i.e. no power is provided to a battery) (col. 1 lines 33-37 and col. 1 lines 50-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Miller transceiver with a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery in order for the data phone to continuous transmit and receive data when the battery is low, thereby providing continuous power to the transceiver when using internet service, as taught by Soini et al. and Buhrmann.

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Regarding claim 14, Miller discloses a handheld computer (portable data phone which provides internet and organizer functions) (fig. 1 number 22 and col. 3 lines 65 through col. 4 line 23), comprising: a housing (col. 3 lines 19-24); a display (screen) supported by the housing (fig. 1 number 26); a processor controller) coupled to the display (screen) (fig. 1 numbers 24 and 26); a rechargeable battery (fig. 1 number 40) configured to power the processor (controller) and the display (screen) (col. 4 lines 24-30); a recharging connector (inherent, as the rechargeable battery is connected to an external power source 52, as taught in col. 4 lines 26-50) coupled to the rechargeable battery (col. 4 lines 23-50); and a radio frequency (RF) transceiver (fig. 1 number 34) coupled to the processor (controller) and powerable by the battery (col. 4 lines 12-30) when the battery has a charge above a predetermined low level (inherent, as the normal operating mode before needing to be charge by charger or need of a replacement of batteries, as taught in col. 4 lines 23-27), the charging connector receives power from a power source and provides power to the rechargeable battery and to the transceiver (inherent, as the external power source 52 which is connected to the data phone which provides power to the rechargeable battery 40 and thereby provides power to the transceiver 34 since the transceiver is attached to the

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rechargeable battery 40, as taught in fig. 1 numbers 22,34,40 and 52 and col. 4 lines 12-50, and the rechargeable battery can be charged while simultaneously operating the data phone, taught in col. 4 lines 6-30). Miller differs from claim 14 of the present invention in that it does not explicitly disclose the transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery. Soini et al. teaches a multi-service mobile station used for data, notebook, PDA, mobile, and calendar services (paragraph 0001 lines 1-11 and paragraph 0014 lines 1-3) which a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level (inherent, since a warning is given to the user through the display when the battery drops below a pre-limit value 1warning 32), if the voltage over the battery drops further below preset limit value 2warning 33, the multi-service mobile station cuts off power supply to the telephone module which are connected with the transmission and reception of messages by radio, as taught in paragraph 0040 lines 1-9 and since the data traffic is not cut off until the battery level drops below the preset limit value, power off 35, taught in paragraph 0042 lines 1-5), the battery unable to power the transceiver when the

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charge is below the low level (paragraph 0040 lines 7-10).

Buhrmann teaches a wireless transceiver powered by a landline connected to local exchange (i.e. no power is provided to a battery) (col. 1 lines 33-37 and col. 1 lines 50-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Miller transceiver with a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery in order for the data phone to continuous transmit and receive data when the battery is low, thereby providing continuous power to the transceiver when using internet service, as taught by Soini et al. and Buhrmann.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, the combination of Miller and Buhrmann differs from claims 15 and 16 of the present invention in that they do not explicit disclose a computer program running on the processor, the computer program configured to request access to the RF transceiver and the computer program is an e-mail program. Soini et al. teaches a multi-service mobile station which offers P1 to Pn services such as e-mail service or telefax service (paragraph 0032 lines 1-9 and paragraph 0038

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lines 1-26), which is run by a processor (fig. 4 number 41) (paragraph 0025 lines 1-14), the computer program configured to request access to a telephone module (fig. 4 number 42) (RF transceiver) (i.e. to transmit and receive telefax and electronic mail messages (paragraph 0032 lines 1-10) and send an e-mail message wirelessly through the telephone module through the internet by pressing one key) (paragraph 0038 lines 1-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Miller and Buhrmann with a computer program running on the processor, the computer program configured to request access to the RF transceiver and the computer program is an e-mail program in order for the data phone to open an electronic mail application and to send a wireless electronic text messages through the internet over a wireless network, as taught by Soini et al..

4. Claim 2,4,5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Soini et al. and Buhrmann as applied to claim 1 above and in further view of Hazzard et al..

Regarding claims 2,4 and 5, the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. differs from claims 2,4 and 5 of the

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present invention in that they do not explicit disclose a recharging cradle, the recharging cradle is a synchronization cradle, and the synchronization cradle includes electrical connector that is configured to couple to the recharging connector. Hazzard et al. teaches a handheld computer device (PDA) (fig. 2 number 12) comprising a recharging cradle (docking cradle) (paragraph 0024 lines 1-6 and fig. 10 number 14), the recharging cradle is a synchronization cradle (paragraph 0023 lines 8-11, paragraph 0024 lines 1-6 and fig. 10 number 14), and the synchronization cradle (docking cradle) includes electrical connector (fig. 10 numbers 36,34,40 and 42 and paragraph 0027 lines 1-19) that is configured to couple to the recharging connector (i.e. the recharging connector attached to the rechargeable battery of the PDA that is charged while the PDA is connected to the docking cradle) (paragraph 0027 lines 1-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. with a recharging cradle, the recharging cradle is a synchronization cradle, and the synchronization cradle includes electrical connector that is configured to couple to the recharging connector in order to provide the charging capabilities within the cradle, which saves power within the data phone and allows

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the data phone battery to be recharge while held within the cradle, synchronize data within the data phone with a wireless synchronized server computer to make sure data within the data phone and wireless server are synchronized while providing charge to the data phone battery in case the battery runs low, as taught by Hazzard et al..

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. differs from claim 6 of the present invention in that they do not explicit disclose the electrical connector is configured to couple to a data connector on the handheld computer. Hazzard et al. teaches the electrical connector (fig. 10 input/output (I/O) numbers 34,40 and 42 and paragraph 0027 lines 1-19) that is configured to couple to a data connector (fig. 10 number 36 I/O, paragraph 0023 lines 8-11 and paragraph 0027 lines 1-19) on the handheld computer (i.e. to synchronized data within the hand held computer (PDA) with another computer) (paragraph 0027 lines 1-19 and fig. 10 numbers 36,34,40,42 and I/O to computer (Sync)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. with an electrical connector that is configured to a data connector on the handheld computer

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in order to synchronized data within the data phone with a personal computer to determined if the data phone and personal computer are compatible thereby program files between the data phone and personal computer can be updated or removed, as taught by Hazzard et al..

5. Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soini et al. in view of Janik et al..

Regarding claims 7 and 10, Soini et al. discloses a method of transmitting data (telefax or e-mail) over a radio frequency (RF) (radio) link from a handheld computer (Multi-service mobile station) (paragraph 0028 lines 8-15, paragraph 0029 lines 1-5, and paragraph 0038 lines 1-28) having a low battery charge (i.e. the battery level below preset limit value 1warning) (paragraph 0040 lines 1-16), comprising: providing the handheld computer (Multi-service mobile station) with a rechargeable battery (fig. 4 number 46) having a relatively low charge (paragraph 0040 lines 2-9); and establishing an RF link (paragraph 0038 lines 1-28) using a telephone module 42, (inherent, as a transceiver since the multi-service mobile station has reception and transmitting capabilities, taught in paragraph 0028 lines 8-15, paragraph 0032 lines 1-13 and fig. 4 number 42), if the rechargeable battery level is above the preset limit value 2warning 33, which cuts off

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power supply means 42 which are connected with the transmission and reception of messages by radio, paragraph 0040 lines 2-10). Soini et al. differs from claim 7 of the present invention in that it does not disclose coupling the handheld computer to a recharger; providing power from the charger to a transceiver of the handheld computer while the handheld computer is coupled to the recharger. Janik et al. teaches a coupling a PDA (fig. 1 number 2) to a recharger (fig. 8 number 56 and paragraph 0043 lines 1-7); providing power from the charger to a transceiver (fig. 8 number 78) of the handheld computer (PDA) while the handheld computer (PDA) is coupled to the recharger (inherent, since the transceiver is connected to the PDA (fig. 8 number 78) while the PDA battery is being charged within the docking cradle (fig. 2 number 54), as taught in paragraph 0043 lines 1-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Soini et al. rechargeable battery with coupling the handheld computer to a recharger; providing power from the charger to a transceiver of the handheld computer while the handheld computer is coupled to the recharger in order to charge the multi-service mobile station rechargeable battery when it reaches its transmission and reception capabilities cut off supply level and to apply power to the multi-service mobile station when transmitting a telefax or

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e-mail message through a wireless network when the multi-service mobile station rechargeable battery is exhausted, as taught by Janik et al..

Regarding claim 8, Soini et al. discloses providing power from the rechargeable battery to the transceiver (i.e. the rechargeable battery applies power so that the multi-service mobile station can transmit and receive messages through its telephone module 42, taught in paragraph 0040 lines 2-9).

Regarding claim 9, Soini et al. discloses a method of transmitting data (telefax or e-mail) as discussed supra in claim 7 above. Soini et al. differs from claim 9 of the present invention in that it does not explicit disclose coupling the handheld computer to a synchronization cradle, the synchronization cradle having a charger connector. Janik et al. teaches coupling the handheld computer (PDA) to a synchronization cradle (paragraph 0006 lines 1-5 and paragraph 0039 lines 1-10 and fig. 1 number 54), the synchronization cradle (paragraph 0006 lines 1-5) having a charger connector (adapter-to-cradle-connector 24) (paragraph 0039 lines 1-10 and paragraph 0043 lines 1-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to modify Soini et al. multi-service mobile station with coupling the handheld computer to a synchronization cradle, the synchronization cradle having a charger connector in order to synchronized data within the multi-service mobile station with a personal computer, and charge the rechargeable battery while resting on the cradle while sending and receiving telefax or e-mail messages when the power is cut off to the telephone module, as taught by Janik et al..

Regarding claim 11, Soini et al. discloses draining (voltage drops) of the rechargeable battery (46) to a charge level (preset limit value 2Warning) at which the transceiver is unable to establish an RF link (i.e. the transmission and reception of messages are cut off from the power supply which is connected to the telephone module 42 (transceiver), (paragraph 0040 lines 2-9).

Regarding claim 12, Soini et al. discloses receiving an e-mail message (paragraph 0028 lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 13, Soini et al. discloses receiving a cellular telephone call (mobile telephone call or speech message) (paragraph 0029 lines 1-14).

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6. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Soini et al. and Buhrmann as applied to claims 14 and 15 above and in further view of Huat.

Regarding claim 17, the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. differs from claim 17 of the present invention in that they do not explicit disclose the computer program is an always-on e-mail program. Huat teaches a PDA consisting of an e-mail program, word processing program and a web browser program that are running concurrently (paragraph 0039 lines 6-12), and that only one program can be active at a time (paragraph 0039 lines 6-12), the program not active runs in the background (i.e. always-on) when an active computer program is activated (paragraph 0039 lines 6-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. with an always-on e-mail program in order to open multiple programs such as word processor or the organizer and still be able to receive incoming e-mail messages through the transceiver, as taught by Huat.

7. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Soini et al. and

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Buhrmann as applied to claim 14 above and in further view of Janik et al..

Regarding claims 18 and 19, the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. differs from claims 18 and 19 of the present invention in that they do not explicit disclose an expansion connector coupled to the processor, the expansion connector configured to couple to memory devices, and the RF transceiver is coupled to the expansion connector. Janik et al. teaches an expansion connector (adapter-to-PDA connector) (22) (paragraph 0039 lines 1-4) which is connected to PDA side serial port (fig. 8 number 130) coupled to a microprocessor (fig. 8 numbers 90), the adapter-to-PDA connector (22) configured to couple to a DRAM and a flash memory (fig. 8 numbers 114 and 106), and a transceiver (fig. 8 number 78) is coupled to an expansion connector (22) (paragraph 0039 lines 1-4) which is connected to PDA side serial port (fig. 8 number 130).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Miller, Buhrmann and Soini et al. with an expansion connector coupled to the processor, the expansion connector configured to couple to memory devices, and the RF transceiver is coupled to the expansion connector in order for the controller of the data phone to separate the organizer

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functions from the voice communication functions and to receive instructions how to operate software programs when receiving and transmitting information wirelessly to a distant server, as taught by Janik et al..

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik et al. in view of Soini et al and Buhrmann, newly recited reference.

Janik et al. discloses a handheld computer (personal digital assistant or PDA) (fig. 1 number 2), comprising: an expansion module (LAN adaptor module) (14) (fig. 8 and paragraph 0035 lines 1-2) including a rechargeable battery (fig. 8 number 86 and paragraph 0043 lines 4-11) and a radio frequency (RF) transceiver (fig. 8 number 78), the battery configured to power the transceiver when the battery has a charge above a predetermined low level (inherent, as the normal operating mode before the rechargeable battery needs to be charge by a battery charger, as taught in paragraph 0043 lines 4-11); a processor (fig. 8 number 90); a display (LCD) (fig. 1 number 6); and a module connector (22) (adapter to PDA connector) (paragraph 0039 lines 1-4) configured to couple to the expansion module (i.e. the adapter to PDA connector (22) that is connected to PDA side serial port (130) of the expansion module (LAN adaptor module)

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(14) (paragraph 0039 lines 1-4), the module receives power from a power source (battery charger) (paragraph 0043 lines 4-8) and provides power to the rechargeable battery (paragraph 0043 lines 4-11) and to the transceiver (inherent, since the transceiver is attached to the expansion module (LAN adaptor module) (14) (fig. 8 number 78 and paragraph 0043 lines 4-11)). Janik et al. differs from claim 20 of the present invention in that it does not explicitly disclose the transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery. Soini et al. teaches a multi-service mobile station used for data, notebook, PDA, mobile, and calendar services (paragraph 0001 lines 1-11 and paragraph 0014 lines 1-3) which a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level (inherent, since a warning is given to the user through the display when the battery drops below a pre-limit value 1warning 32), if the voltage over the battery drops further below preset limit value 2warning 33, the multi-service mobile station cuts off power supply to the telephone module which are connected with the transmission and reception of messages by radio, as taught in paragraph 0040 lines 1-9 and since the data traffic is not cut off until the

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battery level drops below the preset limit value, power off 35, taught in paragraph 0042 lines 1-5), the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level (paragraph 0040 lines 7-10). Buhrmann teaches a wireless transceiver powered by a landline connected to local exchange (i.e. no power is provided to a battery) (col. 1 lines 33-37 and col. 1 lines 50-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Miller transceiver with a transceiver configured to send and receive data while the battery charge is below the low level, the battery unable to power the transceiver when the charge is below the low level, and no charge is being provided to the battery in order for the PDA to continuous transmit and receive data when its battery is low, thereby providing continuous power to the transceiver when using the World Wide Web, as taught by Soini et al. and Buhrmann.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Marui et al. (U.S. Patent 5,444,867) discloses a portable radio being in a communication state is connected to an adapter unit, the second power supply circuit of the adapter unit supplies the portable

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radio unit through the rechargeable battery with power
(abstract).

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Keith T.

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Ferguson whose telephone number is (703) 305-4888. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (703) 308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Keith Ferguson
Art Unit 2683
June 17, 2004


WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600